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21 July 1974

DCI BRIEFING FOR
21 JULY WSAG MEETING

ON-FILE NSC RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS APPLY

CYPRUS

I. Turkish reinforcements are arriving on the island.

A. Additional troops were flown in from the mainland by helicopter this morning to the Kyrenia beachhead area, and others were landed from ships at Kyrenia. Some 60 Turkish helicopters landed in the Nicosia area at mid-day.

MORI/CDF per C03233256

B. These reinforcements will be more than welcome, since the Turkish expeditionary force is still meeting determined opposition.

C. When major fighting ended last night, the Turks appeared to be in firm control of the northern coastal area around Kyrenia, and the Kyrenia-Nicosia road.

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II

- A. At Limassol, about 10,000 Turkish Cypriots reportedly surrendered yesterday. The press says that they have been taken to the soccer stadium, where they are being guarded by Greek Cypriots under UN supervision.
- B. Turks reportedly have also surrendered in Paphos,

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and are being rounded up by Greek forces. In Larnaca, a Turkish Cypriot contingent is hard pressed, and UN authorities are attempting to negotiate a ceasefire.

C. A similar contingent in Famagusta is isolated, and frantically calling for air support. Resistance appears to be collapsing.

D. Capture of these areas will obviously free additional Greek forces for operations around Nicosia and Kyrenia.

III. On the mainland, Turkey's major cities were apparently blacked out last night and placed under martial law, following reports that Greece was mobilizing for war and marshalling strong forces in Thrace.

A. The Consulate General at Istanbul confirms that a blackout was declared for the city on the night of July 20-21, but that activity appeared entirely normal this morning. No curfew was declared.

B. The level of activity at Thessaloniki in northern Greece appears somewhat lower than yesterday, although the airport is still closed and the main road to Athens is reported blocked.

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Traffic is light, and the city appears calm.

C. The large amount of military equipment noted in the city yesterday apparently is moving eastward. Armored columns and convoys reportedly moved toward the east during the night. An American school teacher traveling from Kavalla to Thessaloniki saw a continuous stream of military traffic, including some 200 armored and tracked vehicles.

IV. Moscow has made no significant comment on the Turkish invasion of Cyprus beyond the official government statement last night, which denied that all Soviet forces had been put on alert.

A. It has, however, continued to condemn the Greek junta. Radio Moscow stressed that the US has put itself in the position of upholding a dictatorship and bears moral responsibility for the events on Cyprus, since the "mutineers" were armed with US weapons.

B. In an Arabic broadcast, Radio Moscow quoted and endorsed a press report from a Lebanese paper that connected the events on Cyprus with developments in the Middle East in general. By making the connection between the events on

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Cyprus and those in the Middle East, the Soviets may hope to bolster their own position in the area.

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- V. For the time being, the Greek military appear to have drawn back from extreme military moves -- such as an attack across the Evros. Today's reports of Turk^{re} enforcement and air attacks on Cyprus have brought Greece to the verge of withdrawal from NATO, however.
- A. Undersecretary Sisco's message may be critical to holding Greece back from a NATO break.

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